



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUL 25 2002

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL. RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Higman Barge Line, Inc.
c/o Mr. David James
Stevens, Baldo & Freeman
550 Fannin, Suite 400
Beaumont, TX 77701

Re: Palmer Barge Line Superfund Site

Dear Sir or Madam:

On August 18, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") sent your company a Notice Letter ("NL") for the removal action conducted at the Palmer Barge Line Superfund Site ("Site") located in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas. In addition, on September 10, 2001, EPA sent your company a Special Notice Letter for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at the Site. Based on its subsequent investigation, EPA has determined that it does not consider your company to be a Potentially Responsible Party ("PRP") for the site.

This determination is based on the information currently available to EPA. If EPA develops additional evidence which indicates that your company is a PRP, it will notify you and provide you with additional information regarding your possible involvement in the activities at the site. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact EPA Enforcement Officer, Mr. Kenneth Talton, at (214) 665-7475. You or your attorney may also contact EPA Assistant Regional Counsel, Mr. Joseph Compton, at (214) 665-8506. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Amela Phillips, Acting

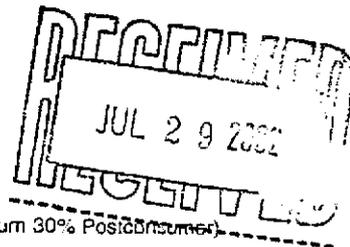
Myron O. Knudson, P.E.

Director

Superfund Division

cc: Texas Natural Resource
Conservation Commission

Mr. Carl B. Everett, Attorney (I. E. Dupont)
RI/FS Steering Committee, Lead



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EXHIBIT 4